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Approved For Release 2001/08/28 : CIA-RDP67-00059A000200200035-9

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Director, R & E
FROM : Chief, Far East/Pacific Branch
SUBJECT: Additional information on North Korea developments

DATE: 18 February 1948

1. Confirming our conversation yesterday afternoon, I gave you this summary of recent developments in North Korea for your use in replying to General Wright's inquiry:

- a. On 7 and 8 February, the North Korean radio at Pyongyang made these two announcements in the name of the North Korea People's Council (the legislative organ) and Committee (the executive organ):
 - (1) The NKP Council has completed a draft constitution for Korea, to be adopted by Council in mid-March after public consideration and discussion;
 - (2) Establishment of the Korean People's Army was proclaimed and that Army's demonstration in Pyongyang was described in dramatic, inflammatory language.
- b. The above announcements were, on the surface, completely Korean-inspired; there was no hint that the USSR had openly engineered or endorsed them. (CIA was fully aware, as witness our current reporting and predictions, that these moves were pending and that the USSR was pulling practically all the strings behind scenes.) It was believed extremely important that both Army and draft constitution applied to Korea as a whole, not just North Korea.
- c. US news correspondents jumped on the two announcements and built rather sensational news items around them. While we were not absolutely sure as of yesterday afternoon, it looked like much of their supplementary information and estimates were gained from discussions with Hodge or his advisers.
- d. According to AP, we pointed out, "broadcasts said the regime would one day embrace all Korea, with Seoul as its capital." We agreed to the first part of this, although the newsmen were premature in calling it a "regime" since the constitution had not been adopted as they claimed; as to the reference to Seoul, we suspected that this was an interpolation by the newsmen.
- e. Since the time of the North Korean announcements, about the only reporting on developments in that zone transmitted by General Hodge's establishment was a confirmation of the Army demonstrations in Pyongyang, as witnessed by the US liaison officer there. (This

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should not be regarded as a reporting deficiency; Hodge's people have long been forecasting these developments and both their and our estimates have advanced far beyond the present events.)

2. The following additional information has been received by FE/P since the opening of business this morning:

- a. According to FBIB, the North Korean radio broadcast the full text of the "Draft of provisional constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea." The following points are noteworthy:
- (1) Article 101 reads: "Seoul shall be the capital of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea. However, pending the formation of a united government, Pyongyang shall be the capital."
 - (2) The framework of the draft constitution, and of the governmental structure provided by it, is completely of Soviet flavor. It looks like that of a miniature Soviet republic.
 - (3) There is no territorial limitation in the draft constitution; it thus would cover any part of Korea that subsequently is incorporated into the "Democratic People's Republic of Korea."
- b. According to a 16 February telegram from US Political Adviser Jacobs in Seoul, Hodge did in fact have an informal press conference with US news correspondents. Hodge noted as "very significant events" the establishment of the "Peoples Army of Korea" and the publication of a "constitution of all Korea," and clearly implied that these were not in accordance with the spirit or letter of international agreements. Hodge also termed "interesting" the constitution's designation of Seoul as the Korean capital. He added, with reference to the Army, that (a) its creation "has been going on for many months," (b) "we have ample information that this Army is equipped with Soviet equipment," and (c) "creation of this Army is certainly a violation of the Moscow decision."

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Captain, USN
Chief, Far East/Pacific Branch

FE/P Intelligence Control / RSH / ext. 2557

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Assistant Director, R & E

15 February 1948

Chief, Far East/Pacific Branch

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for
[REDACTED]
Captain, USN
Chief, Far East/Pacific Branch

FE/P Intelligence Control / RSH / ext. 2557

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO		INITIALS	DATE
1	Assistant Director, R & E	<i>TH</i>	18/2
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FROM	25X1A	INITIALS	DATE
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APPROVAL INFORMATION SIGNATURE
 ACTION DIRECT REPLY RETURN
 COMMENT PREPARATION OF REPLY DISPATCH
 CONCURRENCE RECOMMENDATION FILE

REMARKS: New information on North Korea indicates the Pyongyang draft constitution does in fact provide that the Korean capital will ultimately be in Seoul. You may want to pass this on to General Wright, together with other data given in paragraph 2 of the attached memorandum.

Passed to Gen. Wright by [Signature]

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